

BOOK REVIEWS

THE WESTERN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried in the Advertising Section.

DIAGNOSTIC BRONCHOSCOPY—An Introduction—Third Edition—Peter Stradling, MD(Lond), FRCP, FRPS, Director of the Chest Clinic and Senior Lecturer in Respiratory Diseases, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, London. Longman Inc., 19 West 44th Street, New York City (10036), 1976. 150 pages, \$35.00.

This brief (150-page) text on bronchoscopic technique is superbly illustrated with 168 excellent color plates of remarkable photographic quality, each showing different regions and a wide variety of pathological abnormalities of the tracheobronchial tree. Each plate is accompanied by an explanatory labeled diagram plus the location of the bronchoscopic view in the tracheo-bronchial anatomy. These beautiful photographs alone are well worth the price of the book and provide great educational value both to the inexperienced and to veteran bronchoscopists.

Additional black and white illustrations clearly show the technique of instrumentation and should be very useful in teaching. The narrative text and labeling of the illustrations is clear, concise and easily read.

The author deals with indications and manipulations of both the rigid and fiberoptic bronchoscope. He describes normal bronchial anatomy and dwells on the changes occurring with inflammatory disease, displacement and tumors.

This treatise is the best and most useful teaching reference for would-be bronchoscopists. It deserves a position in the library, if not even the operating room, of every thoracic or endoscopic service.

BENSON B. ROE, MD
*Professor of Surgery
Co-Chief, Thoracic Surgery
University of California, San Francisco*

* * *

RENAL AND ELECTROLYTE DISORDERS—Edited by Robert W. Schrier, MD, Professor of Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Denver; with 12 contributing authors. Little, Brown and Company, Medical Division, 34 Beacon Street, Boston (02106), 1976. 500 pages, \$16.50.

Robert Schrier and his contributing authors have written a good text of nephrology in less than 500 pages. Most chapters can be read by physician-in-training or expert and appreciated by both at their own level of expertise. Notable exceptions to this statement would be the chapters on calcium and magnesium. Here considerable knowledge of nonrenal disease is necessary to really understand the concise remarks regarding abnormalities in the metabolism of these two electrolytes.

Most of the material in this book is well organized. However, the initial chapters dealing with water metabolism, sodium excretion, edematous states and diuretics could present problems for the renal physiology novice. The near total separation of water handling and sodium excretion into two chapters makes urinary concentration and dilution even more difficult to understand than usual. Cross-referencing in these chapters is helpful in solving part of this problem. The chapters on water metabolism and sodium excretion are weakened by the addition of pathophysiologic discussions in both chapters of entities such as congestive heart failure. The salt and water abnormalities in such clinical states would be better discussed at one time in a separate section of the book. Similarly the section on diuretics would be stronger if more attention was paid to changes in water metabolism due to diuretic therapy.

The text presents an excellent mixture of theoretical and practical information. The chapters on acid base

disturbances contain useful differential diagnostic lists and rules of thumb for assessing the severity of the disturbances and their compensatory mechanisms.

Most nephrologists care for patients with urinary tract infections and kidney stones. This book, like most other texts including those of much greater length, does not deal with these two areas. Though the pathogenesis of stone formation is far from clear and the importance of urinary tract infection to renal failure uncertain in the persons without obstruction, these topics should be discussed.

The text contains excellent references including some from the year of publication. Internally, the work is well cross-referenced and has a usable index. The book would be organizationally easier to follow if a lettered and numbered outline system had been used instead of utilizing three or four differing sizes of type for headings.

This book is an excellent collection of important topic discussions, rendered briefly in a practical and theoretical fashion. It is as good as any other concise renal text available to the student and clinician.

C. H. BECK, JR., MD
*Associate Adjunct Professor of Medicine
Chief, Clinical Nephrology
University Hospital
University of California Medical Center
San Diego*

* * *

MOTOR DISORDERS OF THE ESOPHAGUS—Robert D. Henderson, MB, FRCS(C), Associate Professor of Surgery, University of Toronto; Chief of Surgery, Women's College Hospital; Consultant Surgeon, Toronto General Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore (21202), 1976. 231 pages, \$22.50.

This 223-page monograph has many strong points and some weak ones. The strengths lie in its excellent discussions of clinical findings and treatment of common conditions producing motor disorders of the esophagus. The author's wealth of experience with these conditions can be readily appreciated.

The book contains a number of excellent illustrations: photographs, tracings, drawings and radiographs. The references are representative of the field and excellent, but few extend beyond 1970. Only a very few refer to articles published in 1974 and only an exceptional reference is made to an article published in 1975. This explains why the author is still making a great point of the role of gastrin in the control of the tone of the lower esophageal sphincter. This attractive hypothesis has recently been found not to be tenable.

The classification of hiatus hernias as type I, type II and type III, according to the location of the cardia, whether in the chest or abdomen, is also not very meaningful today because it can be shown at fluoroscopy that most of the cases of type II hiatus hernias in this classification at times present as type III if more intra-abdominal pressure is applied.

The book is at its best in the description of surgical procedures used to correct various disorders. The discussion of the respective merits of the various surgical procedures is incisive and logical. It shows not only great clinical experience but also the sound judgment of a leader in the field.

ALEXANDER R. MARGULIS, MD
*Professor and Chairman
Department of Radiology
University of California, San Francisco*